

Message Text

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14
ACTION EUR-12

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R 311410Z AUG 76
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INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
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AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY OSLO
US MISSION NATO 1117
USEC BRUSSELS

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E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, PGOV, SP

SUBJECT: CHURCH STATE RELATIONS: COMMENTS OF LEADING SPANISH
CHURCHMAN

REF: MADRID 5886

1. RECENTLY RETURNED IVP GRANTEE MSGR, JOSE MARIA MARTIN
PATINO (VICAR GENERAL OF ARCHDIOCESE OF MADRID AND PRINCIPAL
ADVISER TO CARDINAL ENRIQUE Y TARANCON, ARCHBISHOP OF MADRID
AND PRESIDENT OF SPANISH EPISCOPAL CONFERENCE) COMMENTED AS
FOLLOWS ON SPANISH VATICAN ACCORD (REFTEL) DURING COURSE
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AUGUST 30 CONVERSATION WITH LABATT.

2. THE FIVE COMMITTEES (JUDICIAL MATTERS, ECONOMIC MATTERS, RELIGIOUS AND SOCIAL ASSISTANCE EDUCATION, AND RELIGIOUS MATTERS IN THE ARMED FORCES) CHARGED WITH STUDYING FURTHER MODIFICATIONS OF THE 1953 CONCORDAT, WOULD CONSIST OF SEPARATE CHURCH AND GOVT COMPLEMENTS. HE CONFIRMED THAT A COORDINATING COMMISSION WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR PULLING TOGETHER AND EDITING THE VARIOUS RECOMMENDATIONS. IN THE LAST ANALYSIS, HOWEVER, SAID MARTIN PATINO, IT WOULD BE THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND THE PAPAL NUNCIO WHO MADE THE FINAL DECISIONS.

3. WITH RESPECT TO THE TWO YEAR TIME LIMIT SET FOR THE EXPECTED SERIES OF ACCORDS, IN HIS VIEW IF AGREEMENT COULD NOT BE REACHED IN SIX MONTHS, IT PROBABLY COULD NOT BE REACHED THE TIME LIMIT HAD BEEN THE PET IDEA OF FORMER JUSTICE MINISTER GARRIGUES AND ROME HAD BEEN RELUCTANT TO ACCEDE TO THE CONCEPT. GARRIGUES HAD REASONED THAT IN VIEW OF THE VATICAN PHILOSOPHY THAT THE CHURCH WAS ETERNAL", HE HAD BETTER PROTECT SPAIN'S INTERESTS BY SPECIFYING A DEFINITE TIME LIMIT FOR THE PENDING MODIFICATIONS.

4. THE SPANISH CHURCHMAN FORESAW NO GREAT PROBLEMS IN REACHING AN AGREEMENT ON THE VARIOUS ISSUES, BUT ADMITTED THAT CERTAIN QUESTIONS WERE MORE SENSITIVE AND DIFFICULT THAN OTHERS. HE PLACED THE ISSUE OF CHURCH EDUCATION AND STATE SUBSIDIES TO PAROCHIAL SCHOOLS IN THIS CATEGORY. HE NOTED THAT IN THE SPANISH EDUCATION SYSTEM, SIXTY PERCENT AT THE MIDDLE THROUGH HIGH SCHOOL LEVEL CONSISTED OF PRIVATE SCHOOLS, OF WHICH EIGHTY PERCENT IN TURN WERE PAROCHIAL.

5. THE QUESTION OF STATE FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF THE CLERGY WAS NOT APT TO CAUSE DIFFICULTIES. THE CHURCH WAS ANXIOUS TO ASSUME FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR PRIESTS SALARIES, TWO THIRDS OF WHICH THE CHURCH WAS ALREADY PAYING. THE REMAINING ONE THIRD OF WHICH WAS SUBSIDIZED BY THE GOVT. REGARDING THE CONFESSIONALITY OF THE STATE, THE MOVE TOWARD SPANISH POLITICAL REFORM AND DEMOCRATIZATION REQUIRED THE SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE. FRANCO HAD WANTED CLOSE TIES BETWEEN THE TWO, FOR HE WANTED THE STABILITY WHICH HE FELT THE CHURCH REPRESENTED. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TODAY, THE SPANISH CHURCH WAS PUSHING FOR A NON CONFESSIONAL STATE. MARTIN PATINO NOTED, INCIDENTALLY, THAT THIS QUESTION WAS NOT WITHIN THE COMPETENCE OF THE CONCORDAT STUDY COMMITTEES.

6. COMMENT: STRATEGICALLY PLACED IN THE HIERARCHY AND REPRESENTING THE CHURCH'S MAJORITY LIBERAL WING, PATINO CAN SPEAK WITH AUTHORITY ON CHURCH STATE MATTERS. THE IVP

GRANTEE CONSIDERED HIS JULY AUGUST TRIP HIGHLY WORTHWHILE
AND NOTED WITH SOME AMUSEMENT THAT HE PERHAPS SPENT MORE
TIME ANSWERING QUESTIONS ON THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN SPAIN
THAN DISCUSSING LIFE IN THE U.S. ONE PARTICULARLY
NOTEWORTHY EXAMPLE HAD APPARENTLY BEEN A WIDE RANGING CONVER-
SATION WITH A GROUP OF AMERICAN BISHOPS (DURING THE
EUCCHARISTIC CONGRESS IN PHILADELPHIA) WHICH HAD LASTED
UNTIL THE EARLY HOURS.
STABLER

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